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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: M. Hansen et al.

Attorney Docket No.: WEYE115753

Application No.: 09/639,658

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: August 15, 2000

Examiner: T. Nguyen

Title: METHOD OF BINDING PARTICLES TO BINDER TREATED FIBERS

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SUBMISSION IN A REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Seattle, Washington 98101

January 25, 2002

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Applicants submit the following submission in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c) as part of the requirements for a request for continued examination. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment set forth below and reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the final rejection mailed October 26, 2001.

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 55-58, 60-61, 63-64, 66-67, and 69-70, and add new Claims 76 and 77 as shown in the attached markup. All pending claims as thus amended are set forth below:

Claims as Amended:

55. (Twice Amended) A method of binding superabsorbent particles to cellulose fibers comprising the steps of:

providing binder-containing cellulose fiber, the binder-containing cellulose fiber comprising cellulose fiber having hydrogen bonding functional sites and a binder comprising a non-polymeric binder having functional groups selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl, a carboxylate, a carbonyl, a sulfonic acid, a sulfonate, a hydroxyl, a phosphoric acid, a phosphate, an amide, an amine, and combinations thereof, the binder comprising binder molecules, the binder molecules having at least one functional group capable of forming a

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